

the incredible commitment he has made, he simply says, "I wanted to take the next step."

I was thrilled to meet with Stuart and his five sons in Washington on Thursday. I know we both hope that this award and Stuart's recognition will raise awareness about the importance of adoption and foster care. Stuart has been able to create a stable, brighter future for his children, who might otherwise have drifted from family to family in the foster care system, never really having someone to call "Dad." For me, Stuart's words have the most resonance—"I just hope this encourages other folks to adopt."

RECOGNIZING MRS. OLA MAE
McFATRIDGE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Ola Mae McFATRIDGE, a long-time member of the district, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Born Ola Mae Kerr outside of Celina, TX, on September 25, 1907, she was raised on a farm where she learned early on the importance of education, family, and hard work. In 1931 she married the late Carl McFATRIDGE and went on to have two children, Bill McFATRIDGE and the late Martha Dobson.

Following graduation in 1926, she taught for 5 years before marrying Carl. While Carl was serving as a marine in the Pacific Theatre in World War II, Ola Mae assumed the role of store manager of the family business. Though she retired from full-time work in 1994 at the age of 87, she continues to be an active and valued member of her community. She is the loving and beloved matriarch of 36 descendants. Among these descendants are educators, ministers, law enforcement and safety personnel, and business professionals.

Ola Mae's life has been marked by an unwavering dedication to family, education, hard work, and faith. This last century has been a remarkable one, and she has borne witness to it all. On behalf of her family, friends, and all those she continues to touch and inspire, I would like to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mrs. Ola Mae McFATRIDGE on this, the centennial of her birth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 949 on H. Res. 32 I am not recorded because of flight delays from Michigan to Washington. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 32.

HONORING BOB LARGESESS AND THE
FOOTSTEPS IN HISTORY PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Mr. Robert Largess who has completed a historic 4-day stage coach journey from the scenic shores of the Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island to beautiful Kelley Square in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Largess has driven an 1800's style horse-drawn stagecoach along the Blackstone River Valley National Corridor to commemorate the third annual Footsteps in History Program. This program is a week-long celebration of the cultural and historic heritage of the Blackstone Valley. Footsteps in History was created by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, and the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Long before the railroad and canal boats came to the Blackstone Valley, people used stagecoaches to make the journey between Providence and Worcester. His 4-day journey will be the first such trip in about 180 years and aims to raise public awareness about the Blackstone Valley and its place in history. Mr. Largess's ride has also served to educate our children and our community about the important role that the Blackstone River and the Blackstone Canal have played in the industrialization of the United States. He will end his journey at the starting point of the Canal and he has been at the center of a communitywide effort to restore the section of the canal that is now buried under the streets of Worcester.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I honor the work of Mr. Largess and members of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council for the work they do to help bring alive the rich history of the Blackstone Valley.

RECOGNIZING THE LAKE MURRAY
JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the South Carolina Junior Chamber of Commerce and, specifically, the Lake Murray Junior Chamber for their leadership and service in our community during this year's Junior Chamber Mission Week.

In 1929, the United States Junior Chamber established Junior Chamber Mission Week, or "Jaycee Week", to celebrate its founding with seven days of public relations opportunities for its member chapters. Each day of the week, they highlight a different basic tenet that the chamber has adopted. These tenets are as follows: a faith in God, the purpose of brotherhood, free enterprise, government laws, human personality, and service to humanity.

For over 70 years, the South Carolina Junior Chamber has been actively involved in our community by devoting time to developing fu-

ture community leaders. Over those seven decades, it has contributed to humanitarian projects such as Jaycee Camp Hope, Family Talk and JAYS. As a former member of the Jaycee-West Columbia Jaycees for over 20 years and as former state legal counsel of the South Carolina Jaycees, I know firsthand of the positive impact of South Carolina Jaycees.

I wish to thank Lake Murray Chapter President Angie Wedekind, South Carolina State President Scott Bryant, the National Junior Chamber President Chris Oldham, and the Junior Chamber International President Scott Greenlee. Their leadership is helping to shape today's young people into successful leaders of tomorrow.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
HERMAN M. MAISEL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Herman M. Maisel, a devoted family man and dedicated community leader.

A native and lifelong resident of Mobile, Mr. Maisel was a standout athlete at Murphy High School in football, basketball, and baseball. After graduating in 1942, he enlisted in the Marines. He served in the Pacific theater until the end of World War II and was cited for his bravery.

After returning home, he attended the University of Alabama using the G.I. Bill and received a degree in education. Once again, he was a standout athlete, named to the all-star teams in intramural football, basketball, and baseball. While in graduate school at the university, he coached both the freshman football and basketball teams.

In 1952, Mr. Maisel was named assistant football coach and head basketball coach at his alma mater, Murphy High School. Under his leadership, the Murphy High School basketball team racked up 91 wins and only 12 losses, winning three city championships and tying for another. The team also won three district titles and the 1956 Alabama State Basketball Championship, a first for a Mobile school. He also coached the Murphy golf team, which won the state championship in 1956.

With a desire to be a better provider for his family, Mr. Maisel entered the real estate business. In 1971, he acquired Staples, Pake & Griffin Real Estate in Mobile, changing the name to Herman Maisel & Company. This company became one of the top 100 shopping center developers in the United States, with holdings in 14 states. Additionally, he was a founding partner in Mobile Greyhound Park.

Mr. Maisel was actively involved in his community, contributing to numerous civic and charitable endeavors. He was a member of the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, serving on its board of directors, and a past president of the Ahavas Chesed Synagogue in Mobile.

There is no doubt—Mr. Herman Maisel's contributions to Mobile and the state of Alabama will be long remembered. He loved life